

(b) whether the Union Government are planning to implement the cheap and useful lift irrigation scheme there;

(c) If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation and flood control being a state subject, the responsibility of investigation, planning, formulation, execution, funding and implementation etc. of irrigation projects/schemes of all types rests primarily with the State Government. Major and medium schemes need clearance while Minor irrigation schemes do not require even clearance by the Union Government.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees'

2443. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees' (Committees of rural teachers) in the States; and

(b) The other new measures proposed to be taken for the spread of education in rural areas during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Central Government is not aware of constitution of Committees of rural teachers in States. However, under the 73rd Constitution Amendment primary education is one of the subjects which can devolve on Panchayat Raj bodies. The Village Education Committee is envisaged as the main instrument for facilitating decentralised planning and management of education at the village level.

[English]

Security Council Seat

2444. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of senior officers in his Ministry, who had undertaken foreign tours in recent months to canvass for non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council;

(b) the details of the countries visited by them and the dignitaries they have met; and

(c) the salient features of the reports submitted by these officers?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Visits to 137 countries (statement enclosed) were undertaken by Envoys of EAM from January 1996 to October 1996 to canvass support for India's candidature to the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Important Summit level meetings were particularly targeted in Africa, Americas and the Caribbean and our case was projected among participating Member States at high levels.

Twenty one distinguished retired Foreign Service officers and Secretary level officers and Divisional Heads within the Ministry were deputed for these visits. A ministerial level representative was sent to the OAU Summit. As EAM's Special Envoys the delegates usually called on Foreign Ministers of those countries, apart from senior officials. The reports of the envoys were found useful in making an assessment of the position.

STATEMENT

List of Countries Visited by EAM's Special Envoys

Afghanistan
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentinian
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chile
Colombia